

Community Preservation Committee Meeting **Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

Present: Tom Callahan, (Chair), Peter Jackson (Treasurer) Linda Weld, Kathleen O'Donnell, Ted Carroll, Cheryl Tougias, Wendy Garpow, Joseph Duffy, Sr. Administrative Clerk Julia Getman.

Absent: Jenny Russell (Vice Chair)

1. Administrative Items:

The sixth meeting of FY2024 was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Mr. Callahan introduced the CPC members.

2. Review and Discussion of FY24 Funding Applications:

Kelly Field Softball & Baseball Field Improvements

Applicant Rob Levash gave a presentation on a \$151,500 funding request for infrastructure improvements to Kelly Field's softball and baseball diamonds which included plans for the installation of fencing, benches, and shade structures to protect from foul balls, wild throws, sun and rain. The high volume of athletic teams and community members using the field as well as the health, safety and sustainability benefits of the improvements were discussed. Several letters of support from Town organizations were shared, and a \$27,500 pledge from the Parks and Recreation Department was noted. The funding request was \$24,000 less than the eligibility request, Mr. Levash mentioned.

The materials to be used in the construction and sustainability elements were discussed amongst CPC members and the applicant.

Milton Cemetery Headstone Repair

Cemetery Director Lisa Ahern discussed a \$120,400 funding request for repairs to the headstones of the historically significant colonial era burial grounds at the cemetery and said that she had received two estimates for the work of repairing, resetting, and cleaning 97 compromised stones. She discussed the threat that overhanging, overgrown trees and their roots pose to the grounds, and the delicate and costly process of removing them. She touched on the esthetic, historical and cultural significance of the stones and discussed the method by which the stones would be repaired and documented. Several Committee members acknowledged the insight gained by the August 16th site walk led by Ms. Ahern.

Peeverly Park Playground and Popes Pond Pedestrian Bridge

Conservation Commission (Con Comm) Chair John Kiernan said that the FY2023 \$40,000 funding request for a feasibility study for the installation of a playground at Peeverly Park was in its beginning stages and ties into plans for a Popes Pond pedestrian bridge, which was also applied for in FY23 at a cost of \$125,000. He said that the jurisdictional lines of area had been surveyed and that the wetlands delineation and 25-foot and 100-foot non-disturbance zones were being established which would determine the placement of the playground. Ms. O'Donnell noted that the custody of the park land would need to be transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department with a vote at Town Meeting (TM). Mr. Keirnan said that pylons would be required for the pedestrian bridge and that the delineation would determine the placement of the bridge at the shortest crossing, which will establish where the trail around the pond will begin.

Popes Pond Trail Extension and Handicapped Access Feasibility Study

Mr. Kiernan said that he was working with Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Chase Berkely on the proposed trail extension for which \$40,000 in funding had been requested. He said that no trees would be removed, there would be no cut and fill, and woodchips would be laid down. Addressing the feasibility study, he reported on chronic drainage problems on the west side of the pond which he said will need to be built up, and said that erosion control measures, grading and culverts may be necessary to make the trail handicapped accessible. The roots of mature trees on the east side, he said, will require cut and fill and a regrading of the path. The cost of the entire project was expected to reach up to \$750,000, which the feasibility study will help to determine, and \$40,000 was requested in CPA funding. A phased approach to the project and access to the bridge alone were proposed. Comparisons to the improvements at Turner's Pond were discussed. It was noted that Con Comm's order of conditions for the "Ice House" 40B development at 487 Blue Hills Parkway as well as the comprehensive permit for the site included public access to the pond, and financial support may be available. He said that landscape architects as well as civil engineers would be required and that the \$40,000 request for the trail extension may be reduced with financial assistance from the DPW.

3. Administrative Items:

On a motion by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Ms. O'Donnell, the September 13th minutes were approved 7/0/1 with Ms. Garpow abstaining. After a brief discussion on the services provided with a Community Preservation Coalition membership, the Committee voted 8/0/1 on a motion by Ms. Garpow, seconded by Ms. O'Donnell, to renew the annual dues at a cost of \$3,500. Mr. Callahan, as Chair, abstained from the vote.

4. Funding Score Cards:

Ms. O'Donnell addressed edits she had made to the scoring system for funding applications. She discussed a system of breaking out the general criteria of the funding categories and specifying criteria for each type of project. Equalizing the scoring system across categories to even the numbers and create a more balanced rating system was discussed, as well as how to determine which criteria applied to which types of applications. Ms. O'Donnell described the scorecard as a "framework for discussion," as opposed to a definitive numerical point system. Different interpretations of different criteria for different projects were debated and it was agreed that applicants should supply individual interpretations for certain terms. Using the scorecards for personal guidance as part of the larger discussion and providing checkmarks for four columns of simplified standards was proposed. A check minus/check plus system was decided upon.

5. Adjourn: On a motion by Ms. Garpow, seconded by Ms. Tougias, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



Thomas Callahan, Chair